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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 25X1C

INFO.

SUBJECT Present Status of Former Armament Plants in
Suhl and Weimar

DIST. 1 July 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Simson & Co., Suhl

- a. This firm, called the Gustloff-Werke when the Nazis took it over, has now reverted to its original name as given above.
- b. The factory buildings constructed shortly before and during the war, and constituting about sixty-five percent of the total installation, have been dismantled; machinery, heating and lighting apparatus, etc., have been sent to Russia. Only the shells of these buildings, minus floors, doors and windows, remain. About 12 April 1947, it was rumored that they were to be demolished within eight days. Machinery still on the premises, however, would suffice for the expansion of present production, all of which is going to the Russians.

Comparative production tables follow:

<u>Pre-War</u>	<u>Wartime</u>	<u>Present</u>
Automobiles	AA guns	Hunting weapons
Motorcycles	AT guns	Kitchen stoves
Iceboxes	Machine guns	Baby carriages
		Bicycles
		Children's tricycles

- d. All armaments production plans were seized by the Russians, who manifested special interest in a rapid-firing, self-feeding Model 42 using caseless ammunition, which was still being developed at the end of the war. Six of the firm's German designers voluntarily went to the USSR. Letters from these people state that they are in a city of 150,000 inhabitants located in the Urals and approximately 2,000 kilometers from Moscow.

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DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700100006-1

Date: 27 Feb 78 By: 023 (035)

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APR - 1103.0000 - 4/1951 Germany

25X1A

- e. The Simson plant is supervised by a Soviet general director, with Max Fischer, former sales director, subordinate to him. Former sales president Karl Beckurts, said to be an extremely capable administrator, now resides in Kassel, where he is studying cabinet-making.
- f. During the war, this company employed 3,000 to 4,000 men; present workers number approximately 1,600.

2. Heinrich Krieghoff, Suhl

This, the second largest gun factory in Suhl, has been completely leveled.

3. J. P. Sauer & Sohn, Suhl

Approximately half of this plant, now a Soviet AG, has been dismantled and half of the buildings have been gutted by fire. The 500 to 600 employees are engaged in the production of pistols, hunting weapons, and typewriters, all of which go to the Soviet occupation forces. (Pre-war employment averaged 1,500 to 2,000 persons, making guns, small arms, and gun parts.) A Russian is in charge, with a subordinate German directorate.

4. C. G. Haenel, GmbH, Suhl

This business, which produced small arms during the war, now belongs to the Land and is managed by a business director and a business council. It is subordinate to the Kontrollstelle für Landeseigene Betriebe at the Wirtschaftsministerium in Weimar. The plant suffered no damages, but approximately fifty percent of its machinery has been dismantled. It is now using some 500 workers and is producing, almost entirely for civilian use, household appliances, pen cases, and hand barrows of assorted sizes.

5. Gemeinschaftswerk Thüringer Arbeiter, Weimar

This is the former Fritz Sauckel Werk, a subordinate of the Gustloff-Werke and directed by Karl Beckurts (Cf. Paragraph 1-e). It is now a Soviet AG employing 600 to 750 people as against its wartime employment figure of 2,000 to 3,000. As at other such plants, the director is a Russian. His assistant is a former concentration camp inmate. During the war, gun carriages, railroad cars and tooling machines were produced; at present, the factory is making narrow-gauge dump cars and freight cars for the Russians. It also repairs all types of German railroad rolling stock.

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